

**REMARKS**

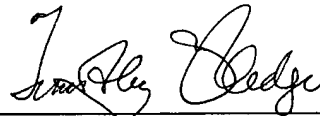
Claims 1 through 21 of the above-identified patent application as filed have been cancelled with this Preliminary Amendment, and Claims 22 through 57 have been substituted therefor. Entry of Claims 22 through 57 is requested.

Early and favorable action in this case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 12, 2002

By:



Timothy Carter Pledger  
Reg. No. 29,424  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Dike, Bronstein, Roberts & Cushman  
Intellectual Property Practice Group of  
Edwards & Angell, LLP  
P.O. Box 9169  
Boston, MA 02209-4280  
(617) 517-5505  
Customer No. 21,874